



May 27, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 99N-0438

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Restaurant Association, founded in 1919 is the leading business association for the restaurant industry, with over 37,000 members representing more than 175,000 restaurant outlets. As such, we have a very strong interest in ensuring that our customers are served safe, wholesome and fresh foods of the highest quality at all times.

We are responding to the request by the Food and Drug Administration for scientific data, studies, or other information related to issues of contamination of ready-to-eat foods associated with food preparation employees.

Enclosed please find the following studies that we believe to be pertinent to this search:

"Alcohol-impregnated wipes as an alternative in hand hygiene."

"Efficacy of Germicidal Hand Wash Agents in Use in a Meat Processing Plant."

"Bacteriological Studies Relating To Handwashing."

"The Use Of Antimicrobial Soaps And Detergents For Hand Washing In Food Service Establishments."

"The Evaluation of Single-Use Bar Soaps for Surgical Scrub."

"Handwashing and Gloving for Food Protection – Part I: Examination of the Evidence."

"Handwashing and Gloving for Food Protection – Part II: Effectiveness."

"Reports of leaky gloves..."

"Gloves: does it matter..."

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"Infection Control Bacteria and Virus Passage..."

"What is Leaky Can be Risky: A Study of the Integrity of Hospital Gloves."

"Prevalence of perforations in disposable latex gloves during routine dental treatment."

"Gloves Work-But They're Not Perfect."

"Latex and Vinyl Examination Gloves – Quality Control Procedures and Implications for Health Care Workers."

"Permeability of latex and vinyl gloves to water and blood."

"Handwashing: It's Essential-Even When You Wear Gloves."

"Results of Microbiological Investigations on the Permeability of Procedure and Surgical Gloves."

"Latex and Vinyl Nonsterile Examination Gloves: Status Report."

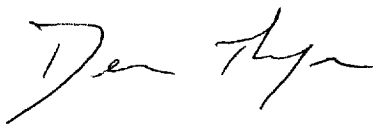
"In-use comparison of latex gloves in two high-risk units: "

"Hand Washing References and Abstracts."

"Hand Washing for Retail Food Operations – A Review."

We hope that these documents will be helpful to your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Thayer", with a stylized, cursive script.

Dennis Thayer
Manager for Public Health and Safety

Cc: Steven Grover, Vice President, Health and Safety Regulatory Affairs